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book, so that whenever that book is published it will bear that same back title, so that there will be in the future no duplication whatever, whether or not you get the book from the department itself. Supposing it is the secretary of war's report of 1914. If he sends it to you it will have that same top title, if you get it from Congress it will have the same top title, and both editions will have the fact that it had been printed as a Senate Document, which will give the key in advance of the serial number. Then, afterward, the superintendent of documents will furnish you the serial number, which will be the key to his indexes and his catalog. From that he will drop all reference to the volume number.

Chairman GODARD: Before we close I want to call attention to another matter. All of you have heard of the effort that has been made for the past nine years by the

joint committee of state librarians and law librarians to get an index to current legislation of all the states.

While I have no occasion to give a talk on what that index does, as we all have a chance to get a sample copy, I hope that when you get home you will speak to those interested in such things and emphasize the fact that it is a co-operative work, and that while the present publishers have contributed towards its present state of perfection something like thirty thousand dollars, they now feel that the index has been shown to be practical and desirable, and they feel that it should be self-supporting. So anything that any of us can do to help this Joint Committee that has been working so hard for nine years to perfect this index, ought to be done.

A motion to adjourn being seconded and agreed to, the meeting adjourned.

ROUND TABLE ON LENDING WORK

In response to a wide-spread desire for an opportunity to discuss the problems of adult circulation a Round Table was held Wednesday, June 28, at 2:30 in the Palm Room of the New Monterey.

Mr. Paul Blackwelder, of the St. Louis Public Library, who presided, explained briefly the reasons for holding the Round Table and in conclusion, said:

Librarians, who are interested in publicity, would do well to ponder the advertising value of a friendly and satisfied public. Successful business men have long appreciated this self-evident fact. Hotels, department stores, even public service corporations, are making every effort to advance their business by courteous and intelligent service. In this connection, I want to remind many of you of the exceptional entertainment received by the A. L. A. at the Hotel Maryland in Pasadena a few years ago. Many librarians remember the charming personality of the manager, Mr. Linnard, and the re-

markable consideration shown them by the members of his staff. On the last day of the meeting one of the librarians asked Mr. Linnard the secret of his perfect discipline and of the homelike spirit in his hotel. He replied that if the statement were true it could be explained by one rule which his employees were told must never be broken. That rule was: "The guest is always right."

I commend to all librarians the spirit expressed in that regulation.

Of the many topics handed to the chairman for discussion, the first presented was: Shall the guarantor requirement for readers' cards be abolished? The discussion showed that a large number of libraries still require a guarantor, but the general tendency of the times seems to be against a guarantee of any kind. Even a reference is deemed unnecessary in many libraries if the applicant's name be in the city directory, or he can be identified in any way, by presentation of a tax receipt,

a business card or a library membership from another city.

This brought to light the fact that St. Louis gives the holder of library cards from other cities all the regular privileges. This seemed to appeal to several speakers, especially Mr. Carr who said that he thought the plan could be worked to particular effect between his own library at Scranton and the neighboring one at Wilkes-Barré, whose book collections in many ways supplement each other.

Shall books be issued for one month? was the next question.

Those who now issue books for four weeks or one month were unanimously in favor of continuing the practice. The advocates of the shorter period objected that the book collections, especially small ones, could not stand the strain of such a liberal policy—that borrowers would keep books much longer than now, thus causing inconvenience to other borrowers. This view was termed chimerical by those who have tried out the four weeks issue period. They declared that borrowers return books when they have read them, especially if, as in most cases, they want others. The saving in work connected with renewals and the reduction of irritation over fines were mentioned as further advantages of the longer period of issue.

Question three: Shall the prevailing limitation of one or two novels to each reader be withdrawn?

Here again the discussion brought out a tendency toward increase of privileges. The policy of unlimited issue of both fiction and classed books seems more common than is generally supposed. Mr. Hall, of Somerville, stated that he had found no abuse of this practice, the physical capacity of a borrower in carrying books away, proving a sufficient limitation in

itself. No speaker, however, advocated the issue of current periodicals without limit, or the issue of more than one seven-day book.

The question of rental or pay collections was touched upon incidentally, but could not be discussed for lack of time.

The animation which characterized the whole session reached its height on the question of "Fines." Every point of view was expressed. There were advocates of "no fines," and of "heavy fines," and of fines graded according to the ability of the borrower to pay. One library charges five cents for the first day, four cents for the second day and so on. Some speakers looked upon fines as a penalty and others regarded them as a source of revenue. Many advocated a maximum fine of one cent a day; a few wanted five cents a day. The tendency towards liberality was apparent, however, in this as in all other questions before the meeting and the speakers who favored reducing fines met a hearty response from the audience. Especially impressive was the sympathy expressed for those poorer readers to whom fines are always a burden. Many libraries at present appear to be reducing or remitting fines in individual cases which seem to warrant such treatment and most of the speakers seemed to agree that if this secured the return of the book it was a good policy.

In view of the enthusiasm shown in the discussions, and the attendance of about two hundred people, it was decided to hold another Round Table on lending problems at the A. L. A. conference in 1917.

Mr. Chalmers Hadley was chosen chairman for the coming year, and Miss Agnes Greer, secretary.

AGNES F. P. GREER,
Secretary.